

Annual Report

2022-2023

Fiscal Year



FACT provides the annual report via a hard copy to the Governing Board and Policy Council, and it is available for the public on the agency website at www.fact-inc.com.

OUR MISSION

TO EMPOWER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



**Serving 8 Counties in South Arkansas
Calhoun | Columbia | Dallas | Hempstead
Lafayette | Nevada | Ouachita | Union**

We believe that from birth, all children need early childhood development experiences that support their unique characteristics and provide love, warmth, and positive learning experiences. All families need encouragement and support from their community to achieve their own goals and provide a safe and nurturing environment for their young children.

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The Agency

FACT, Inc. is a premiere preschool provider in South Arkansas. Committed to excellence, the agency provides early childhood education services to children in preparation for success in kindergarten through its 23 preschools and 5 home based programs.

The central office for FACT is located at
2720 Vine Street
El Dorado, Arkansas, 71730

The Executive Director is
Shiree Daniels.

The FACT preschool child development program offers a wide array of program options to meet family needs. These include:

Head Start (HS) Classroom Services are for children ages 3 to 5 whose family income is less than 100% of the poverty level or who meet federally defined criteria.

Early Head Start (EHS) Classroom Services are for infants and toddlers and pregnant women and teens. If eligible, toddlers may transition from EHS to other preschool programs provided by FACT when space is available.

EHS Home Based Services are for clients who choose to have home educators provide the same services offered by our classrooms in the privacy and comfort of their homes.

Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) & Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS) Classroom Services are for children ages 3 to 5, whose family income is less than 200% of the poverty level or who meet specific



Service Area

Calhoun County	Funded Enrollment
Hampton HS	17
Hampton EHS	8
EHS Home Based	11
Total	36

Columbia County	Funded Enrollment
Emerson HS	17
Magnolia EHS	40
Magnolia East HS	20
Magnolia East ABC	20
Magnolia Walker	20
McNeil HS	17
Taylor ABC	20
EHS Home Based	11
Total	157

Dallas County	Funded Enrollment
Fordyce HS	34
Fordyce EHS	16
EHS Home Based	11
Total	57

Hempstead County	Funded Enrollment
Blevins HS	19
Hope HS	80
Total	99

Lafayette County	Funded Enrollment
Bradley HS	15
Lafayette HS	19
Total	34

Nevada County	Funded Enrollment
Nevada HS	18
Prescott HS	19
Total	37

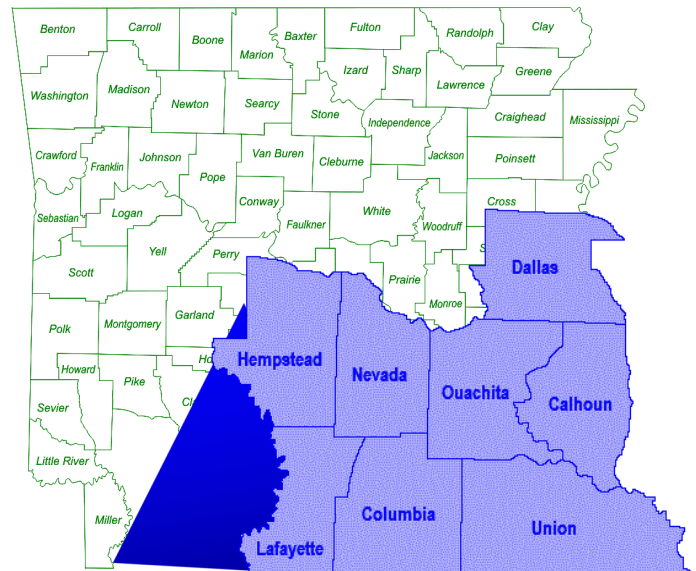
Ouachita County	Funded Enrollment
Bearden HS	19
Bearden ABC	16
Bearden EHS	8
Camden ABC	20
Camden HS	36
Camden EHS	24
Harmony Grove	19
Total	141

Union County	Funded Enrollment
Fairview HS	70
Fairview EHS	40
Junction City HS	20
Junction City EHS	8
Junction City ABCSS	20
Morning Star HS	72
Morning Star EHS	16
Strong HS	18
Strong ABC	10
Strong EHS	8
West Woods HS	40
West Woods ABCSS	94
West Woods EHS	32
EHS Home Based	22
Total	464

In the 2022-2023 program year, FACT operated

- ✓ 30 Head Start classrooms
- ✓ 25 Early Head Start classrooms
- ✓ 11 ABC/ABCSS classrooms

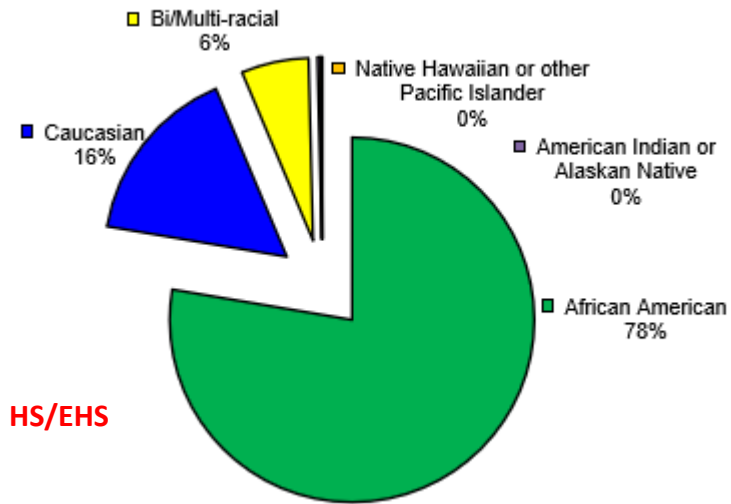
FACT was funded for a total of 1,025 children in 2022-2023





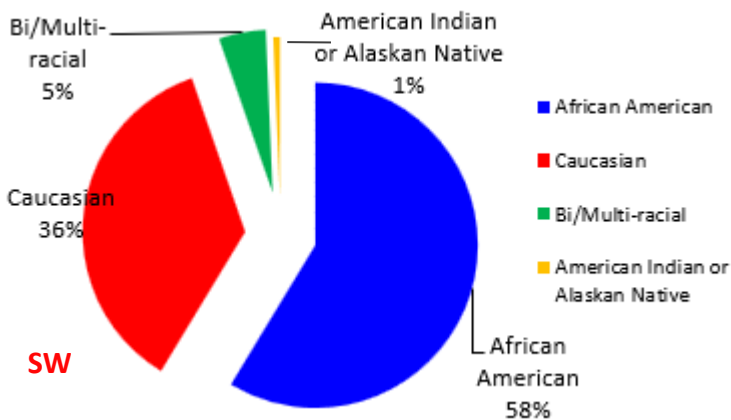
Enrollment

Children of Hispanic or Latino origin are classified under race as white, so they are not separated in the graph. However, we did serve 44 Hispanic children in HS/EHS, which was 5.7% of the number served. We served 23 Hispanic children in the SW counties, which was 15.3% of the number served.



HS/EHS

The average monthly enrollment from Aug. 2022 to May 2023 for Head Start & Early Head Start was 76.1% of the funded enrollment; for the SW counties it was 73.8%. For ABC, it was 81% of the funded enrollment.



SW



FACT served 772 Head Start and Early Head Start children and their families at some point during the 2022-2023 program year.

Of those, 647 were income eligible and 125 were over the poverty guidelines.

An additional 150 children were served in the SW counties grant with 123 income eligible and 27 were over the poverty guidelines.

ABC served 201 children and their families. All met ABC eligibility guidelines.

Staffing

FACT employed 195 full-time staff, 5 part-time staff, and 1 contract staff in the 8 counties served. The list below indicates employment numbers.

There were 24 employees working on degree plans during the 2022-2023 program year. Twenty-one of those were teachers and teacher assistants.

Central Office - 24 employees, including SW Admin

Calhoun County - 6 employees

- 3 Teachers
- 1 Teacher Assistants
- 1 Program Manger/FSA
- 1 EHS Home Educator

Columbia County - 30 employees

- 1 Program Manager
- 16 Teachers
- 6 Teacher Assistants
- 3 Family Service Advocates
- 1 Home Educator
- 1 Cook
- 1 Cook Assistant
- 1 Food Transporter

Dallas County - 12 employees

- 1 Program Manager
- 6 Teachers
- 2 Teacher Assistants
- 1 Family Service Advocate
- 1 EHS Home Educator
- 1 Food Transporter

Hempstead County - 12 employees

- 1 Program Manager
- 5 Teachers
- 5 Teacher Assistants
- 1 Family Service Advocate

Lafayette County - 7 employees

- 2 Teachers
- 2 Teacher Assistants
- 1 Family Service Advocate
- 1 Bus Driver
- 1 Bus Monitor

Nevada County - 6 employees

- 2 Teachers
- 2 Teacher Assistants
- 1 Family Service Advocate
- 1 Food Transporter

Total Teachers (92)

Head Start (30)		Early Head Start (50)		ABC (11)	
AA – 16	53%	AA – 28	56%	AA – 1	9%
Bachelors – 14	47%	Bachelors – 5	10%	Bachelors – 10	82%
Masters – 0		Masters – 0	0%	Masters – 1	9%
		Floaters (in school) – 8	16%		

Total Teacher Aides (40)

Head Start (30)		ABC (10)	
CDA – 11	37%	CDA – 4	40%
AA – 9	30%	AA – 1	10%
Bachelors – 0		Bachelors – 0	0%
None (In school) – 10	33%	None (In School) 5	50%

Ouachita County - 20 employees

- 1 Program Manager
- 12 Teachers
- 3 Family Service Advocates
- 4 Teacher Assistants

Union County - 83 employees

- 3 Program Managers
- 45 Teachers
- 18 Teacher Assistants
- 2 Center Assistants
- 8 Family Service Advocates
- 2 EHS Home Educators
- 3 Cooks
- 1 Cook Assistants
- 1 Janitor/Maintenance



Education

EHS coordinators and classrooms are adjusting and moving along with the implementation of Creative Curriculum, teachers are being encouraged to dive deeper into the curriculum incorporating more Intentional Teaching Cards throughout the day. Many locations were assessed by Better Beginnings utilizing the ITERS-3 assessment tool. All centers observed scored a Level 4 or higher. The Home Educators and Education Coordinators attended the Partners for Healthy Baby Institute in Orlando, FL to support the implementation of the curriculum currently used to fidelity.



Centers hosted multiple events such as graduation drive through parades, center visits from Santa courtesy of area volunteers, and Grandparents and Veterans Breakfasts. Community members volunteered to read in the classrooms, city librarians visited and encouraged families to apply for a li-

Kindergarten Readiness:

brary card. Centers also had visits from fire departments who taught safety, sanitation departments discussed how to keep the community clean, and Arkansas Game and Fish offered outdoor demonstrations. On-site school bus safety training was provided.

Head Start and ABC staff collaborated with public school officials to ensure children's Kindergarten Readiness Skills are aligned with Kindergarten Readiness Goals. Parents received the Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist for Parents. Public school teachers spoke at parent meetings to discuss parent and child expectations for kindergarten.

Field trips were taken to receiving schools for transitioning students. Students are prepared for Kindergarten by using Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum that aligns with Head Start Early Learning and Outcomes Framework and the Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards. Child Outcomes data is generated three times per year (fall, winter, and spring), shared with families, and assessed for co-planning for in-



Disabilities & Health

Special Services:

FACT continues to use the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) tool to assess all children's social and emotional growth. The DECA is a strength-based assessment that defines a child's resilience and screens for protective factors within a child.

Those protective factors include self-control, initiative, and attachment. It is conducted twice per year—when the child enters the program and a second time in March. Teachers enter the information online where the results are automatically calculated and a report can be generated for use in the classroom and at home. In the event that a child has two or more areas of need, a behavior management plan is created to empower the child's growth in their everyday life, socially and emotionally.

The book *Promoting Resilience for Now and Forever* acts as a resource to help parents understand why social and emotional health is so important and how the most ordinary moments and interactions with their young children are the perfect resilience-building opportunities.

FACT also uses a developmental screener called the Brigance Inventory of Early Development to measure the progress of a child's development from birth through seven. Those areas include physical development, adaptive behavior, language development, and cognitive skills. Screening alone is not enough to identify a developmental concern, but it provides early intervention indicators that support the need to refer a child for more evaluation by a qualified professional. The earlier a possible delay is identified, the earlier we can refer for further evaluation and additional support and services.

As a Head Start program, we must ensure that at least 10 percent of our total funded enrollment is filled by children who are eligible for services. For the 2023-2023 program year, 14% of children enrolled in the agency qualified for disability services. FACT provides services to children who qualify for early intervention ser-



Health Services:

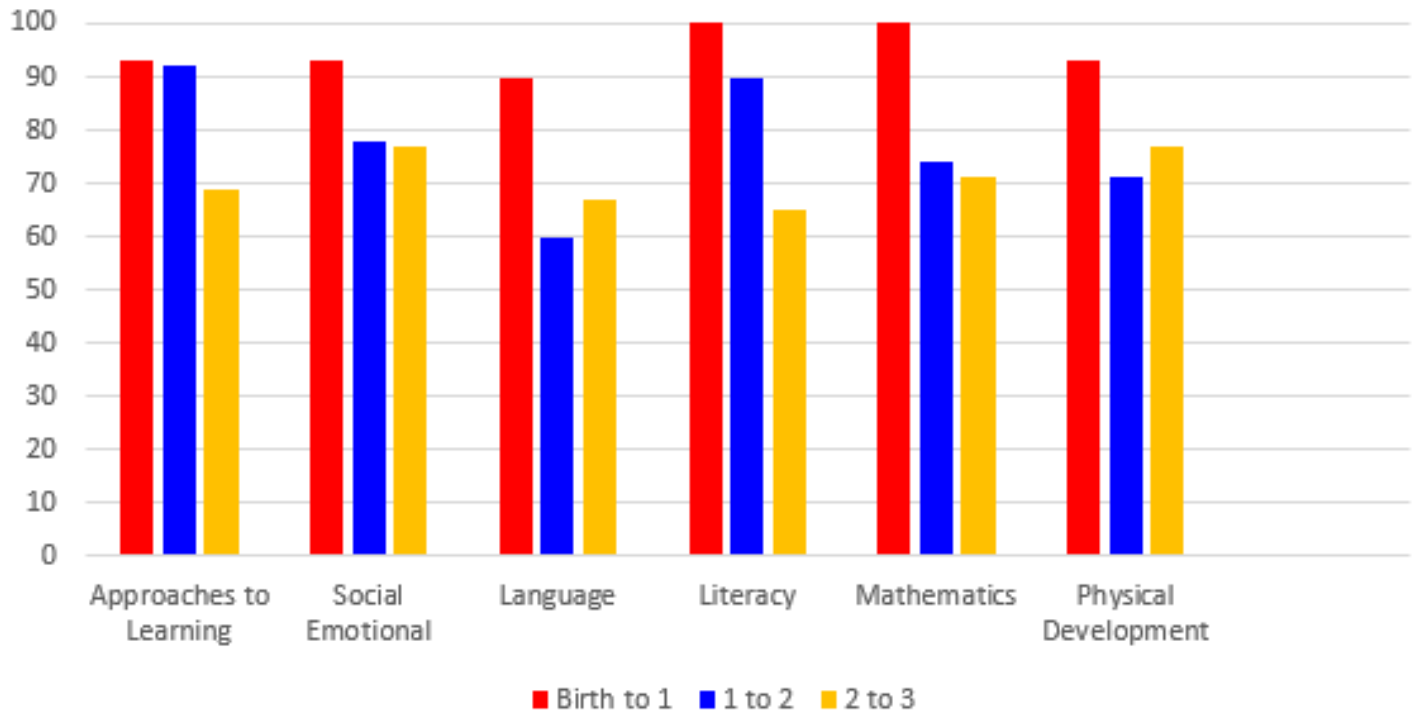
91% of EHS children were up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care, according to Arkansas's EPSDT schedule for well-child care. **83%** were up-to-date on Dentals.

92% of HS children & **98%** of SW children were up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary health care, according to Arkansas's EPSDT schedule for well-child care. **82%** were up-to-date on Dental of HS children and **88%** of HS children in SW.

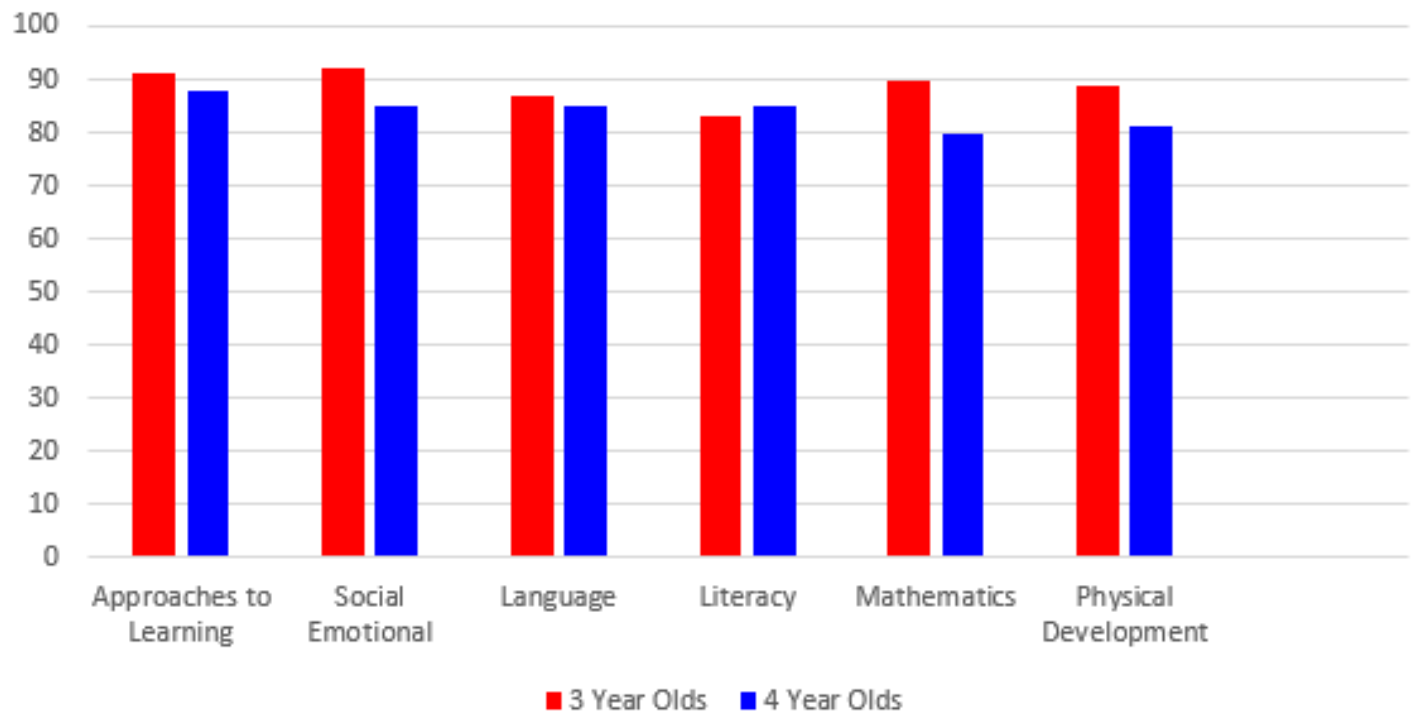
99% of both HS and EHS children were up-to-date with immunizations, with 12 children issued immunization exemptions. **99%** of SW children were up-to-date, with 2 children issued an immunization exemption.

Outcomes

Early Head Start

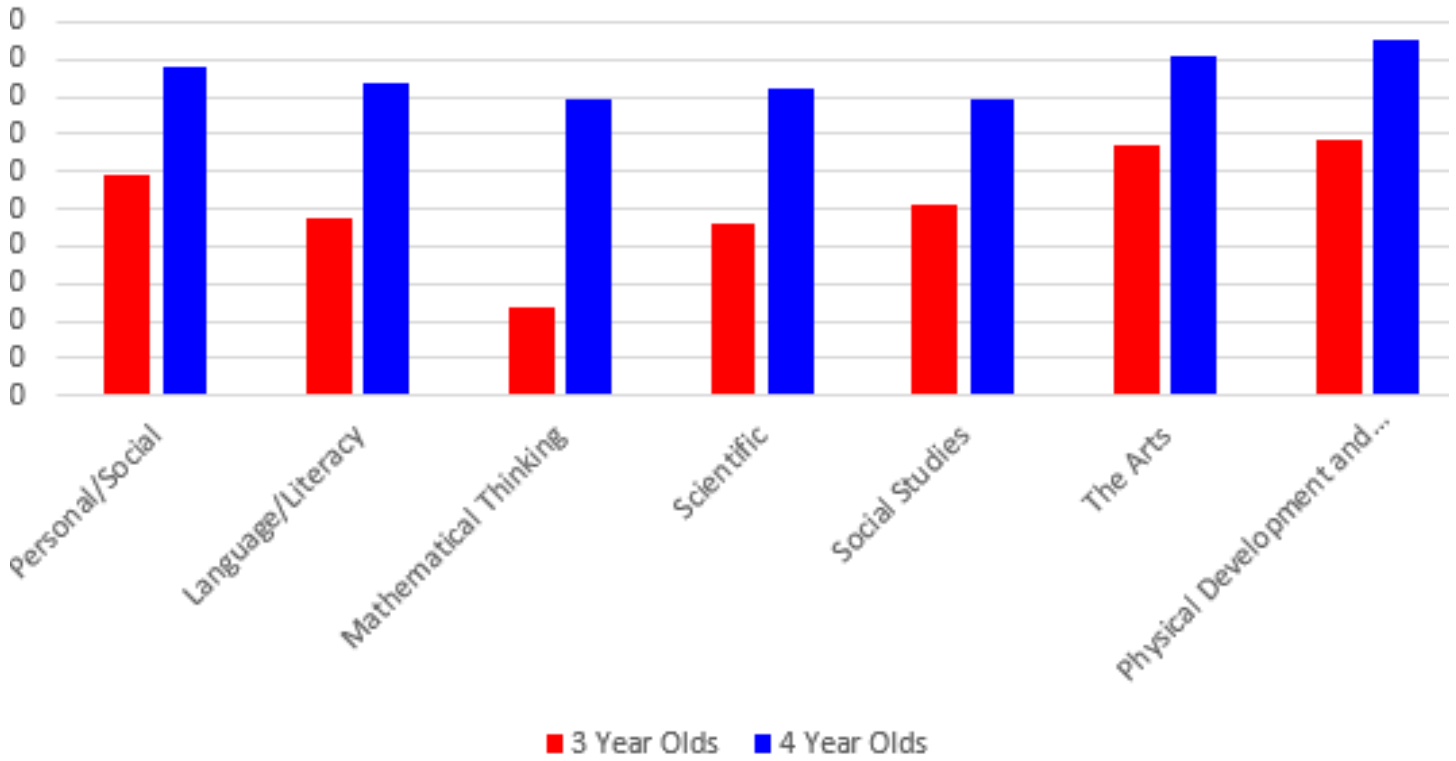


Head Start



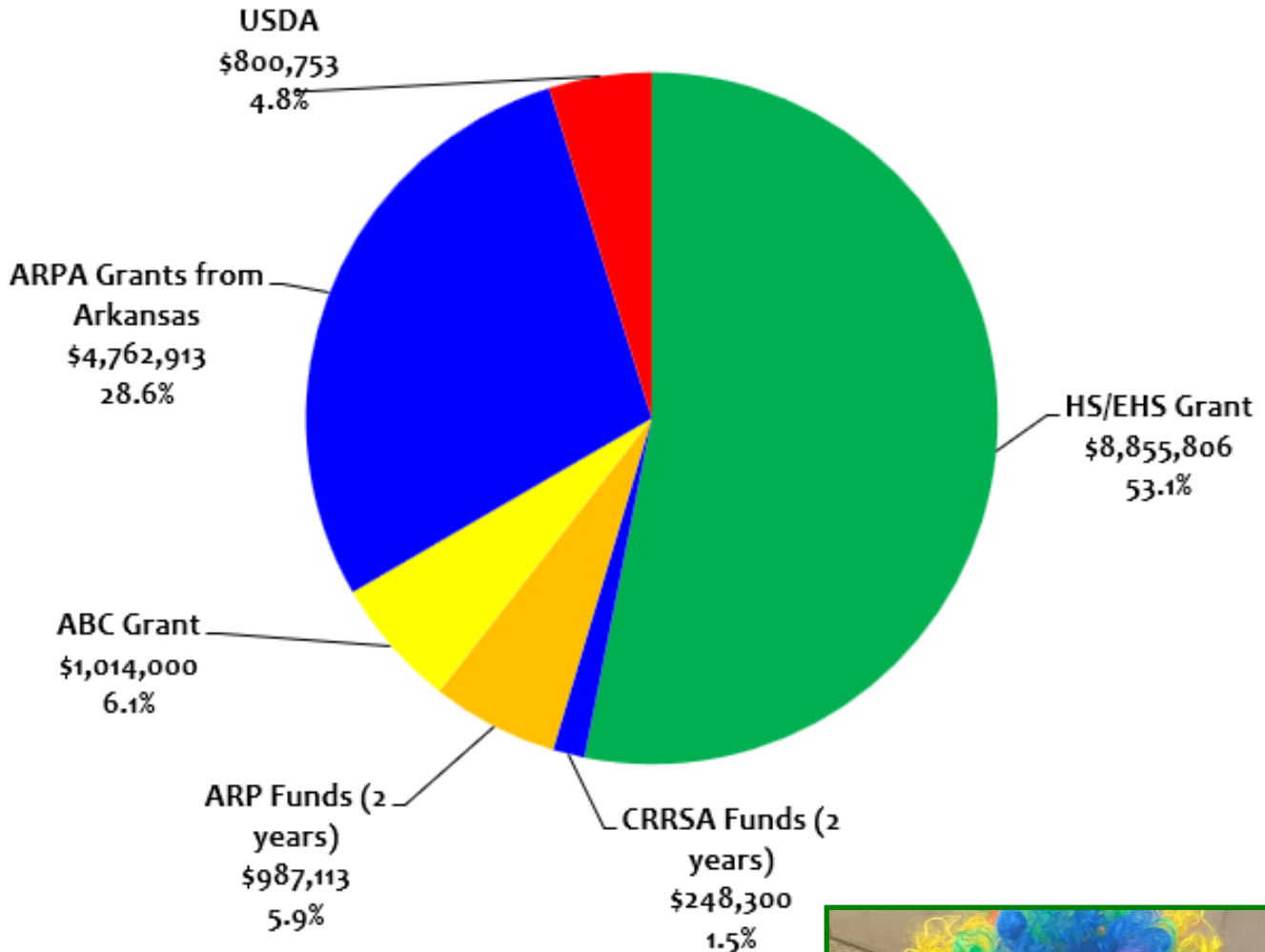
Outcomes

ABC



Funding Sources

Total Funding: \$16,668,885



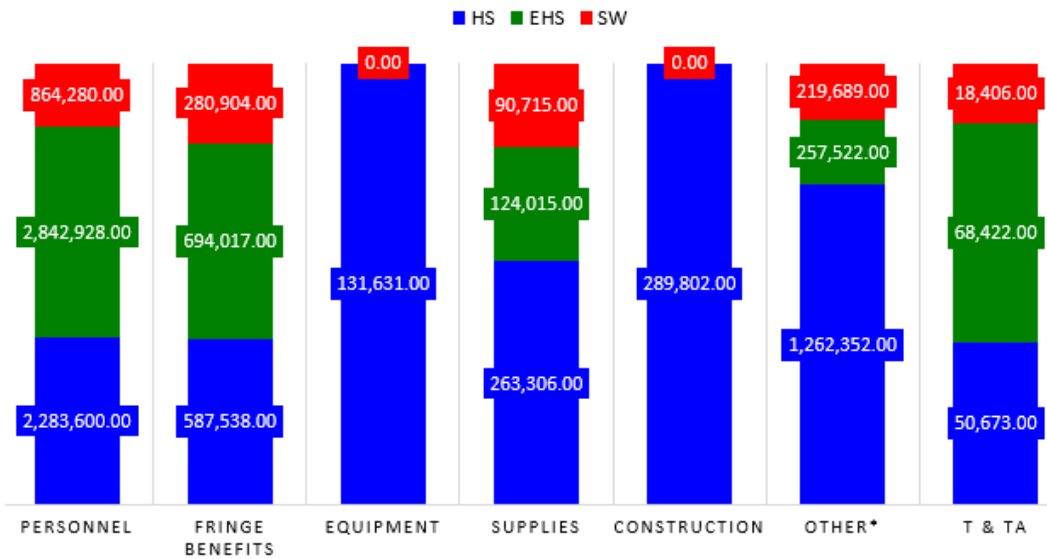
The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act funds and the American Rescue Plan funds are 2 year grants.

These grants end on 3/31/2023.



Budgets

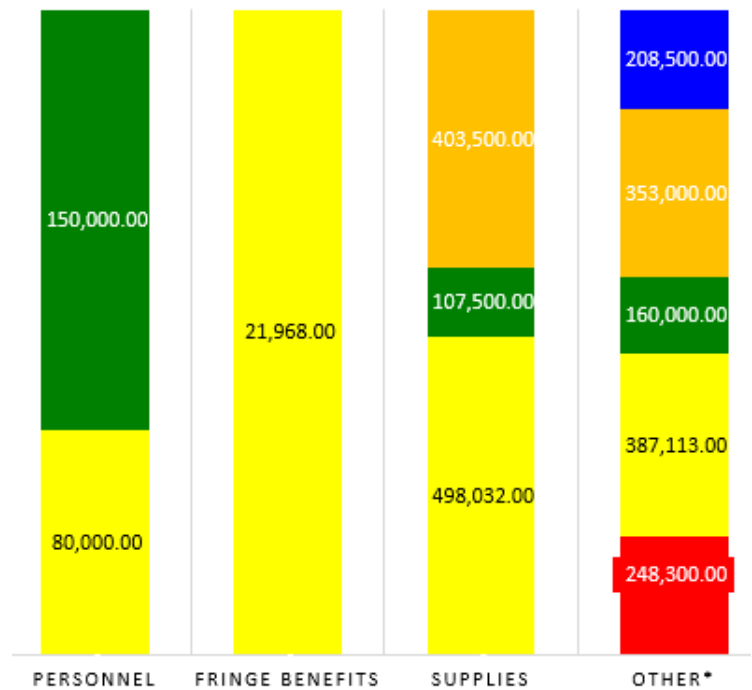
HS/EHS/SW BUDGETS



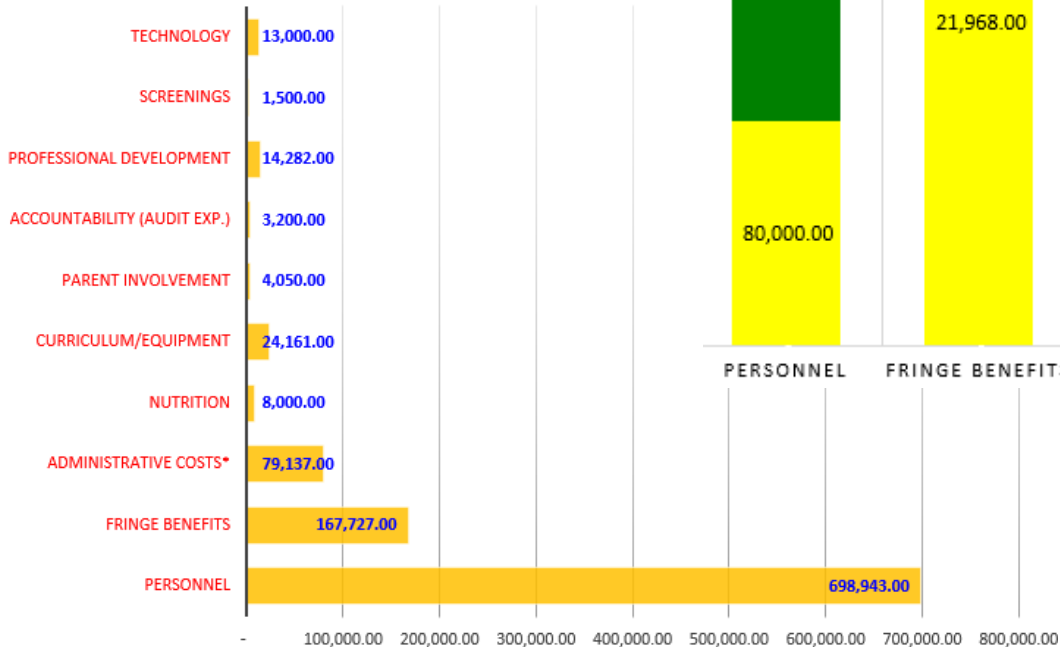
ADDITIONAL FUNDS



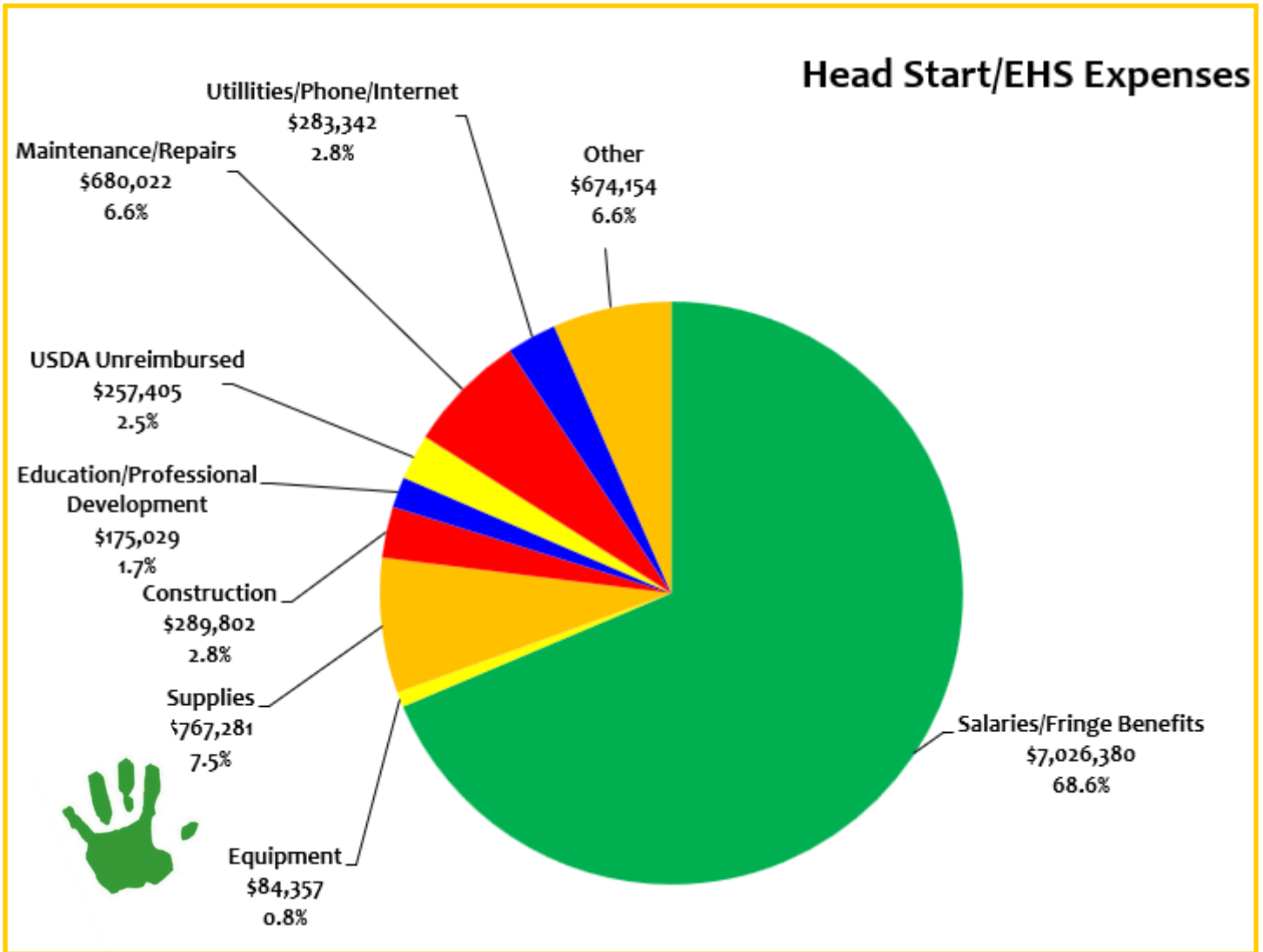
■ CARES HS ■ CARES EHS ■ CARES SW ■ CRRSA Funds ■ ARP Funds



ABC BUDGET



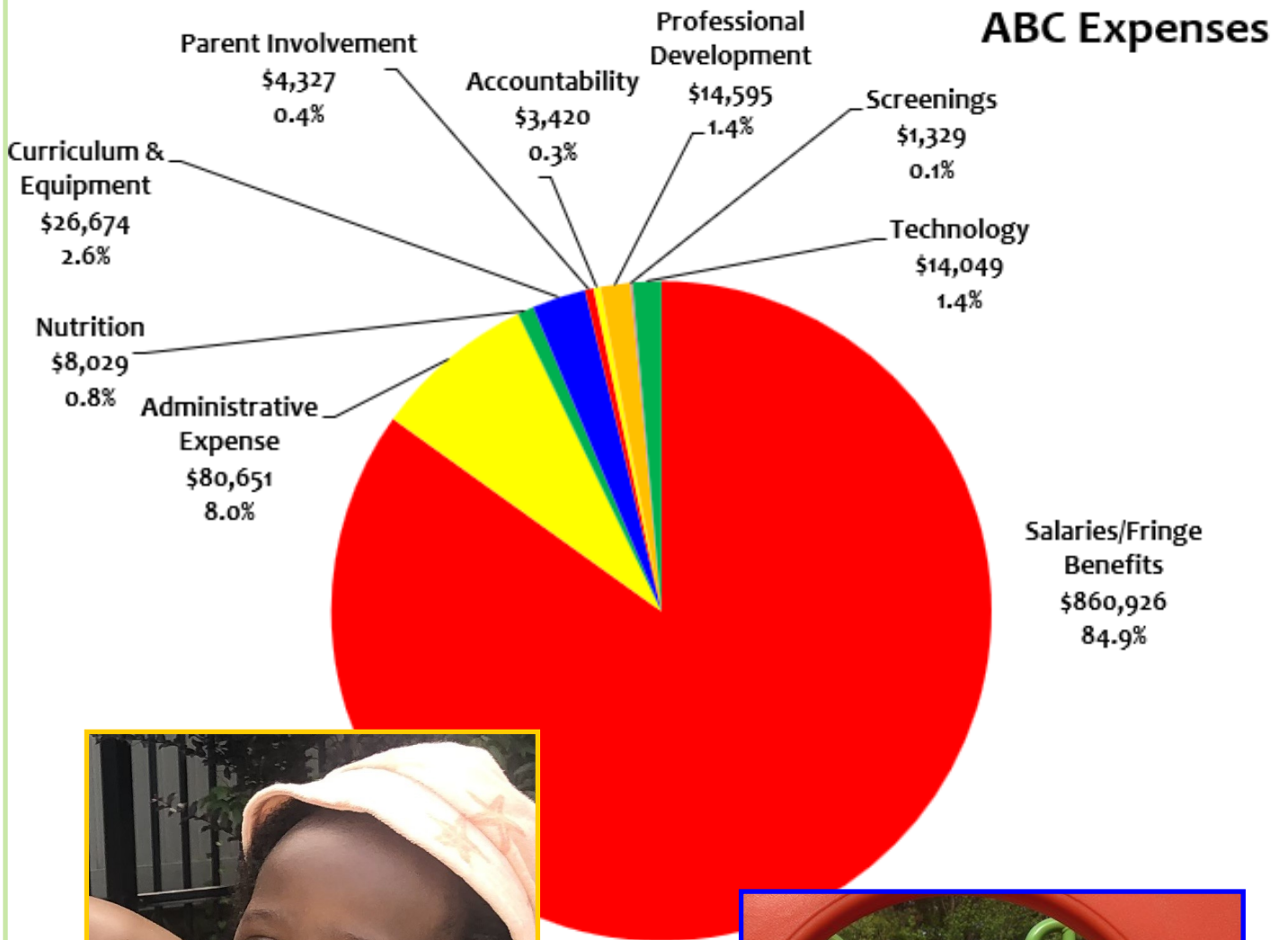
HS/EHS/SW Expenses



*Other includes Rent, Mortgage, Utilities, Telephone, Internet, Maintenance & Repair, Building & Child Liability Insurance, Child Travel, Child Services, Unreimbursed Nutrition Services, Parent Services/Involvement, Accounting & Legal Services, Advertising & Recruitment, Computer Technology, Dues & Memberships, and any miscellaneous expense.

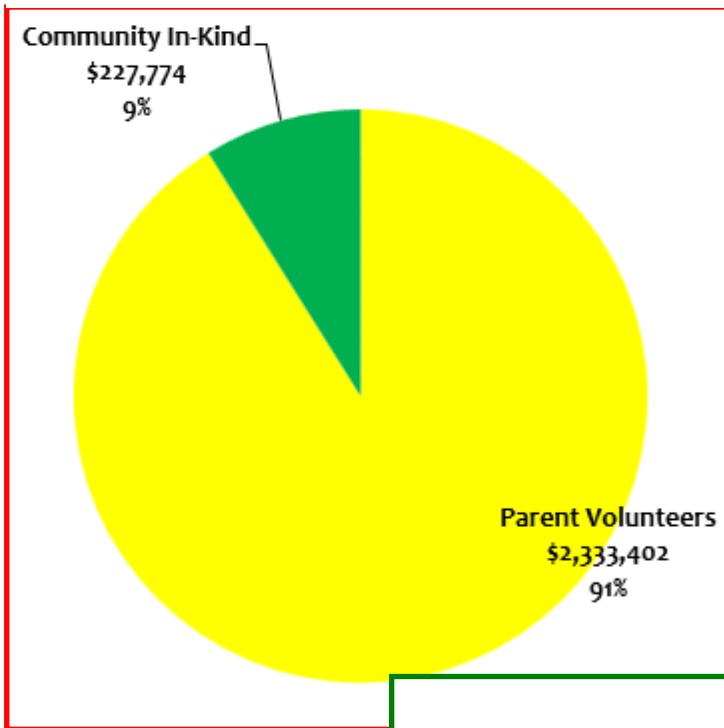


ABC Expenses



*Administrative Costs include Administrative Salaries/ Fringe Benefits, Maintenance, Office Supplies, Rent, Mortgage, Insurance, Utilities, Telephone, and Miscellaneous Expenses.

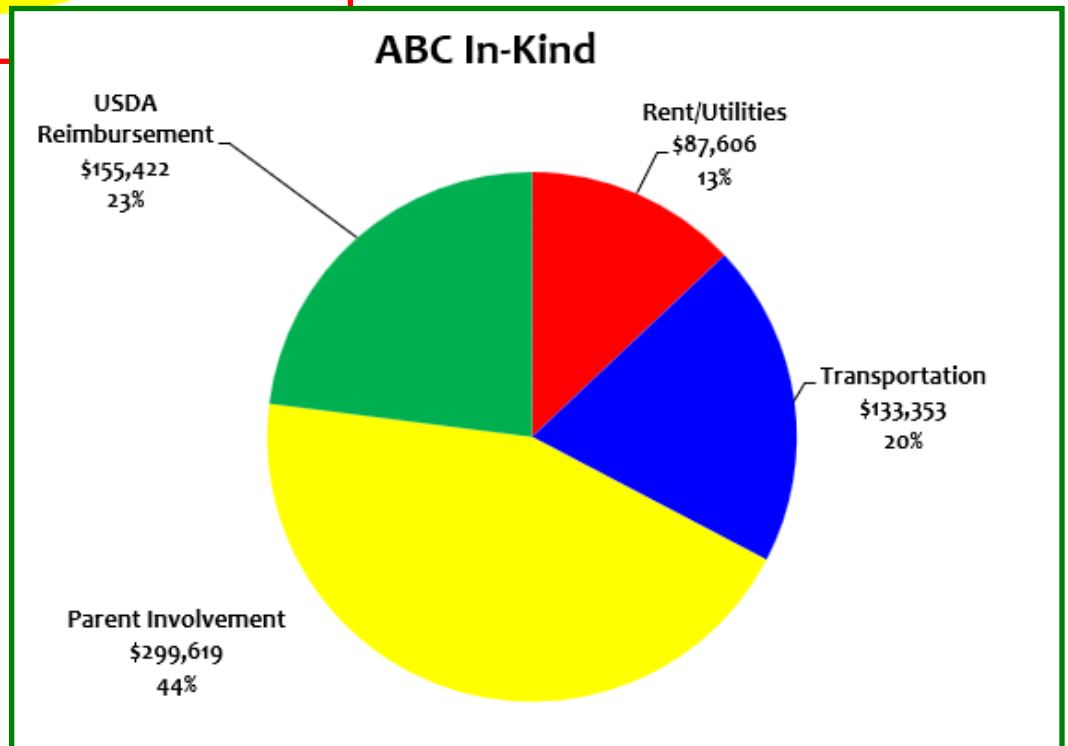
In-Kind



In-Kind is a general requirement of most federal and state grants. To be counted as In-Kind, services or items donated must be those things that the program would have had to pay for otherwise.

Head Start grantees must obtain a 20% In-Kind match for every dollar awarded.

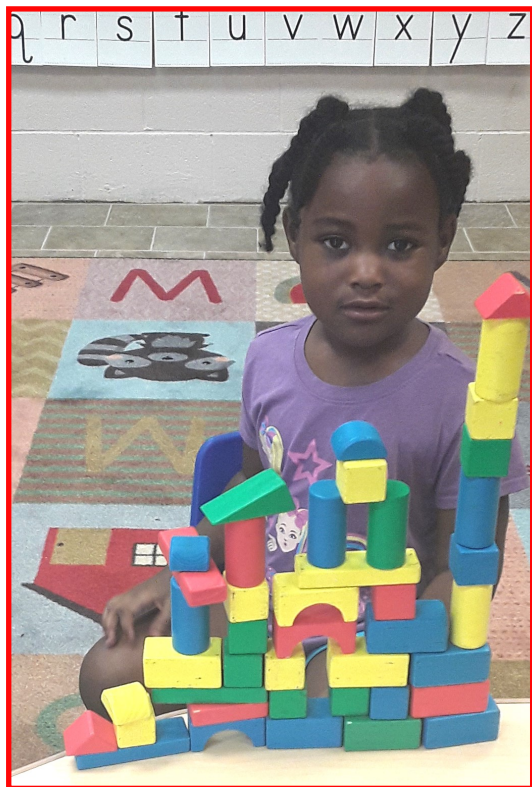
ABC requires a 40% In-Kind match of the grant amount and their match comes from a variety of sources as indicated in the chart.



Volunteers assist with laundry, art, and festivities throughout the year. Members of the community volunteer their time to speak with parents to share expertise or with the children to give them new experiences and learning opportunities. Businesses and community members also donate items to the classroom that the agency would otherwise have to purchase such as copy paper, masks for the children, and art supplies.

Audits, Reviews, New & Innovations

FACT's annual financial audit was conducted by a team of auditors from Cook & Morehart Certified Public Accountants of Shreveport, Louisiana. It took place February 21 through February 24, 2023 for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2022. There were no findings or questioned costs in any major federal awards program noted in the audit.



Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

FACT received an increase in Federal funds of \$488,990 to be used to increase salaries and fringe benefits and to pay for higher operating costs. All Head Start and Early Head Start employees were awarded a 6.5% increase in their rate of pay.

Quality Improvement Funding

FACT received an increase of \$268,845 to be used to improve the quality of the program. The funds were spent to add an additional 1.5% increase to all Head Start and Early Head Start employees rate of pay.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

On November 2, 2023 the Department of Human Services conducted a review of FACT's Child and Adult Care Food Program, CACFP, and there were no findings in the operation of this program.

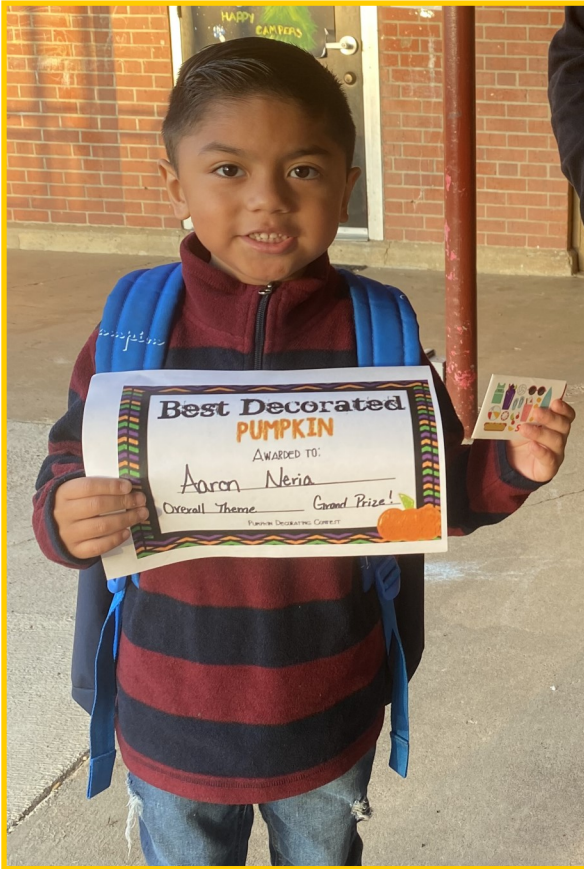
CLASS Video Pilot

From March 17, 2023 through May 1, 2023, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a CLASS Video Pilot review of Families and Children Together, Inc. Head Start. The agency scored above the Competitive and Quality Threshold in all domains. The agency scored 6.0417 in Emotional Support, 6.0926 in Classroom Organization, and 3.2593 in the Instructional Support domain.

Innovative Upgrades from Information Technology

- Installed new IP phone system at Fordyce center.
- Installed playground cameras and installed new network switch at Hampton center.
- Upgraded cable internet modem at Camden center.
- Upgraded memory on Great Plains server.
- Replaced network firewalls and routers at all centers.
- Purchased and installed new FSA copier at Fairview.
- Setup and deployed new laptops and docking stations to all FSAs who work multiple centers.
- Installed new battery backup and surge suppression system at central office.
- Installed new phone system at Lafayette center.
- Installed camera system at central office.
- Upgraded to larger capacity network switch in server rack at central office.
- Replaced all computers in Southwest Counties.
- Installed new camera system in Camden center.
- Installed cameras at West Woods center to monitor entrances and exits.
- Replaced copier at Blevins
- Upgraded computers at multiple centers. This is an ongoing project.
- Installed new phone system at Fairview center.
- Replaced copier at Junction center.
- Installed new battery backup at Blevins.
- Decommissioned Prescott center.
- Setup Chromebooks for classrooms.
- Replaced building links at Strong center.
- Upgraded camera recorder at West Woods center.
- Upgraded 2 network switches at West Woods center.

Governing Board & Policy Council



2022—2023 Board of Directors

Calhoun/Dallas/Ouachita Counties

Dr. Levenis Penix (Chairperson)

Dale Smith

Columbia County

Brenda Holley

Dr. Shane Warrick

Hempstead/Lafayette/Nevada Counties

Mayor Ethan Dunbar

Carla Narlesky

Union Counties

James McMennis (Co-Chairperson)

Dr. Lisa Oden

Susan M. Spicher

Veronica Smith-Creer

2022 - 2023 Policy Council

Calhoun/Dallas/Ouachita Counties

Linzie Williams, Secretary

Vacant

Hempstead/Lafayette/Nevada Counties

Chrystal Hopson

Vacant

Union County

T'Revah Cobb

Vacant

KaShauna Alatorre

Vacant

Early Head Start

Jessica Smith

Vacant

Angela Means, Chairperson

Vacant

Columbia County

Keairra Doss

Home Based

Vacant

Community

Representatives

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant



Parent Involvement & Notables

Parent participation is encouraged to explore new and innovative ways to prevent barriers to parent participation. Parental involvement in school is an important element of a student's success.



- The Grandparent Support Group was originally created by FACT and later a partnership with the SHARE Foundation was to increase participation. Center activities that were geared around grandparents included Breakfast for Grandparents, Grandparents BINGO Night, volunteering in the classroom, reading to the children, and other activities.
- Parents volunteer in the classroom, attend provided trainings to strengthen their role as a parent, complete survey information to assist the agency, participate in home visits, play an active role in transitioning from FACT into kindergarten, participate in Ready Rosie parent education, and learn Conscious Discipline lessons for managing stress.
- When needed, FACT offers Incarcerated Parent activities to maintain a connection through handwritten letters, children's artwork, and helpful information on parenting,

as well as the agency's newsletter- The Grapevine.

- As part of Head Start Father Initiative, FACT provides father-focused involvement activities by an array of activities at the center level including Donuts for Dads, Deck the Halls With Dads, Dads Reading on the Carpet events and activities, volunteering in the classroom, reading to the children, sharing information about their occupation, and others.

Other Family Engagement Activities: Muffins with Mom, Red Ribbon Week, Arkansas Children Week Fun Day and Parade, Friendship Fashion Show, Watermelon Festival, Family Fun Day, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (Smokey the Bear), Veterans Day Celebration, Easter Egg Hunts, Visits with Santa, Rhea Lana, Community Health Fairs, Community Resources Event, Columbia and Lafayette County Li-

Community Assessment

The Community Assessment is a tool to make program decisions, determine the types of services most needed by families and children, to locate resources available for those needs, and to set long- and short-term objectives. Head Start leadership staff study the most important changes in the communities and counties on a regular basis; however, the Community Assessment is performed every five years and updated annually for a more in-depth process.

The following is a brief summary of the latest Community Assessment. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the full assessment may contact the FACT Central Office.

Economic Outlook

Five counties saw a **decrease** in the rate of unemployment. Lafayette County has the highest rates. Standard Lithium has purchased 118 acres of land in Lafayette County with plans to build the highest capacity lithium extraction plant in Lafayette and Columbia County. Three Dollar General stores opened in El Dorado, Arkansas, located in Union County.

El Dorado Paper Bag Manufacturing Company, located in El Dorado, AR, will close by the end of the year, according to a representative with ProAmPac, the Cincinnati, Ohio-based company that purchased El Dorado



Unemployment Rate Rankings for Arkansas

Counties

October 2023

Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary Estimates

County	Rate	Rank
Dallas	4.4	53
Calhoun	3.5	16
Columbia	3.9	31
Hempstead	3.4	11
Lafayette	5.2	64
Nevada	3.8	30
Ouachita	4.2	48
Union	5.0	63

Packaging in 2021. The representative added that the company plans to assist current El Dorado Paper Bag Manufacturing Company employees as the plant prepares to close.

The median income for Union County continues to show its need for our programs with an average of \$50,202. The data for all our counties functions

Community Assessment

In a rural area, we are largely limited to data via the latest U.S. Census Report. We have listed the current county data to which we provide services. Some county information wasn't availa-

2023 County Census Report for FACT-Inc Service Area		
County	Population	Growth Rate
Calhoun	N/A	N/A
Columbia	22,276	-175
Dallas	5993	-2.65
Hempstead	19,303	-254
Lafayette	N/A	N/A
Nevada	N/A	N/A
Ouachita	21,754	-295
Union	37,140	-1.62

Children in Single-Parent Families		
Location	Data Type	Year 2022
Arkansas	Number	238,475
	Percent	36.8%
Calhoun	Number	172
	Percent	21.1%
Columbia	Number	2,126
	Percent	47.3%
Dallas	Number	509
	Percent	51.4%
Hempstead	Number	2,346
	Percent	50.6%
Lafayette	Number	422
	Percent	43.0%
Ouachita	Number	2,205
	Percent	48.3%
Nevada	Number	1,105
	Percent	65.9%
Union	Number	3,471
	Percent	40.1%

ble. The most current report on demographics was created in 2020-2022 and it provided estimates for our populations. We also looked at the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Arkansas Department of Human Services, and the new Aspire Arkansas Project—a new program created to provide life statistics on individual counties in Arkansas.

With the percentage of single parent households and the unemployment rate for

each county that FACT provides services, the agency's preschool programs are essential for furthering the education of our most vulnerable citizens. In addition to providing education to break the cycle of poverty, the full day programs are vital for providing families with time to be in the workforce.



Community Partners

100 Family Alliance	Douglas Chapel Church	Logoly State Park
Adult Education	East Main Kindergarten	Magnolia Fire Department
Ambulance Service	El Dorado Chamber of Commerce	Magnolia Public Schools
American Red Cross	El Dorado Connections	McNeil Public Schools
Andy Kitchens, PDS	El Dorado Fire Department	Mark Pickett, DDS
AR Dept of Workforce Services	El Dorado Public Schools	Marshall Mitchell, DDS
AR Employment Division	Excel by 8	New Creations Life Center
AR Museum of Natural Resources	Experience Works	Newhaven Counseling & Health Services
Bancorp South	Fairview Social & Arts Club	Ouachita County Extension Services
Barbara's Day Care	Family Connects Community Alignment	Pride & Progress Club
Bearden Fire Department	First Connections	Randy Everett, DDS
Bearden Public Schools	Fordyce Public Schools	Rainbow of Challenges
Boys & Girls Club	Fred W. Dietrich, DDS	Rehabilitation Services
Cabun Clinic	Hampton Public Schools	Ryan Henry, DDS
CADC	Hannah Pregnancy Resource	Robert Carter, DDS
Camden Fire Department	Harmony Grove Public Schools	
Camden Public Schools	Health Unit	
CASA	Henderson State University	
Child Support Enforcement Unit	Home Health	
Claiborne Parish Special Services	Interfaith Clinic	
College Avenue Church of Christ	James Bevan, PDS	
Cooperative Extension Service	James Rotton, DDS	
Cossatot Technical College	Junction City Public Schools	
County/City Libraries	Kids R Us	
Courage House	Kool Smiles	
Dallas County Literacy Council	Kristi Elia, DDS	
Dayspring Behavioral Health Services	Lafayette County Home Health	
Department of Human Services	Lester Sitzes, DDS	
Domestic Violence/Assault Services	Liberty Ministry Association	



Families & Children Together, Inc.

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